

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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R 011735Z JUL 77  
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E O 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV WB GE  
SUBJ: EAST BERLIN MAYOR KRACK REFUSES COMMUNAL CONTACTS WITH WEST  
BERLIN; CONFIRMS 9TH BEZIRK TO BE WITHIN EXISTING CITY BOUNDARIES

1. IN EAST BERLIN PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 28 FOR FOREIGN  
JOURNALISTS ACCREDITED TO GDR, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN  
WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS, EAST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR  
(OBERBUERGERMEISTER) ERHARD KRACK STATED HE WOULD REFUSE  
ANY CONTACTS WITH WEST BERLIN ON CITY-TO-CITY LEVEL.  
RELATIONS WITH WEST BERLIN, HE ADDED, LAY WITHIN COMPE-  
TENCE OF GDR GOVERNMENT. KRACK, A MEMBER OF GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
AS WELL AS CANDIDATE MEMBER OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
ALSO SAID THAT EAST BERLIN CITY ADMINISTRATION DOES  
NOT TAKE WEST BERLIN INTO ACCOUNT IN STREET PLANNING,  
CONTRARY TO WHAT WEST GERMAN DEUTSCHE PRESSE  
AGENTUR (DPA) NEWS AGENCY REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN TOLD  
BY EAST BERLIN SOURCES SOME TWO YEARS AGO, THAT  
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EAST BERLIN CITY PLANNING WOULD ASSURE THAT BERLIN  
TRAFFIC NET FOR ALL BERLIN WOULD BE KEPT AND  
CONNECTING POINTS WITH WEST BERLIN STREETS NOT BE OBSTRUCTED.

2. IN CONFIRMING THAT PROPOSED EAST BERLIN NINTH  
BEZIRK WOULD LIE WHOLLY WITHIN PRESENT CITY  
BOUNDARIES, KRACK EMPHASIZED SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF

GDR TO DECIDE SUCH MATTERS ON ITS OWN. ON OTHER HAND, HE WAS QUOTED IN TAGESSPIEGEL AS REMARKING THAT AN EXTENSION OF EAST BERLIN CITY BOUNDARIES BECAUSE OF NEW AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT WOULD "AFFECT THE SPECIAL STATUS OF ALL BERLIN (GANZ BERLIN)".

3. COMMENT: KRACK'S REJECTION OF EAST BERLIN-WEST BERLIN CONTACTS AND COMPATIBLE CITY PLANNING IS IN LINE WITH GDR POLICY OF INTEGRATING EAST BERLIN INTO GDR. HIS STATEMENT THAT 9TH BEZIRK WILL BE FORMED WHOLLY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF EAST BERLIN IS FIRST SUCH PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT THAT GDR HAS MADE. A RELIABLE GERMAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE GDR MASTER PLAN FOR THE NEW DISTRICT PROVIDES FOR EXPANSION TO THE EAST INTO BEZIRK FRANKFURT/ODER, BUT FOR STATUS REASONS THE SOVIETS REJECTED AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT APPLICATION OF THE PLAN BEYOND THE CITY'S BORDERS.

4. WE ARE INCLINED TO INTERPRET HIS REFERENCE TO "SPECIAL STATUS OF ALL BERLIN" AS AN ERROR, IF TAGESSPIEGEL QUOTATION IS ACCURATE. NO ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HAS APPEARED SO FAR IN EAST GERMAN PRESS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM WEST BERLIN PRESSMEN WHO COVERED FIRST OFFICIAL NEWS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY EAST BERLIN MAYOR IN HIS THREE YEARS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICE, THAT KRACK APPEARED TO BE EXTREMELY NERVOUS AND UNSURE OF HIMSELF, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE WAS CALLED UPON TO FIELD BERLIN STATUS QUESTIONS. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE HE SIDE-STEPPED ALL SUCH QUESTIONS.

5. IT WAS MERELY A COINCIDENCE THAT KRACK'S PRESS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ONLY HOURS BEFORE ONE HELD BY HIS COUNTERPART HERR STOBBE (USBER 1758). WE CONFIRMED THAT KRACK'S MEETING WAS SCHEDULED WELL IN ADVANCE, AND THEREFORE, WAS NOT AN ATTEMPT AS SOME OBSERVERS INITIALLY CONCLUDED, ON THE PART OF THE GDR TO UPSTAGE STOBBE. THE OBVIOUS LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND FINESSE DISPLAYED BY KRACK IN DEALING WITH THE FOREIGN PRESS (IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE POLISHED PERFORMANCE OF STOBBE) LED SOME JOURNALISTS TO COMMENT THAT THIS MEETING NOT ONLY WAS HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE PRESS, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS LAST AS WELL. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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